

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Almeda on July 17, 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1(Patent Claim 1),

on line 8: after "member", insert --at an end of the passage to seal the passage--.

In Claim 19(Patent Claim 6),

on line 8: after "member", insert --at an end of the passage to seal the passage--.

In Claim 27(Patent Claim 9),

on line 7: after "member", insert --at an end of the passage to seal the passage--;

on line 19: after "height dimension", insert --and parallel to the planar surfaces--;

last five lines: change "the second...circular shape" to -- the second height dimension producing a closing force on the entire length of one of the slits after removal of the catheter to prevent leakage, and wherein the planar surfaces allow the valve body to expand in the width

Art Unit: 3761

dimension without interacting with the recess when the valve body is received by the recess, defining a generally circular shape--.

4. Claim 20 is cancelled.

5. Claims 4-6, 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 21, 23-24 and 26 were previously cancelled.

6. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11-12, 16, 18-19, 22, 25 and 27 are allowed.

7. The drawings were received on 12-16-03 (all Figures except Figure 2) and 2-15-06 (Figure 2). These drawings are approved.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karin M. Reichle whose telephone number is (571) 272-4936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3761

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Karin M. Reichle/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761

July 21, 2008